

Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association

Minutes from the 2009 Annual Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2009
Minneapolis Depot
225 Third Avenue South, Hiawatha Room #2
Minneapolis, MN 55401

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Board Chair Carletta Sweet called the annual meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Andrea Christenson; Gerry Ewald, Secretary; Andrew Hauer; Paula Klimek, Treasurer; Corey Kline; Scott Parkin, Vice Chair; and George Rosenquist.

Sweet welcomed the audience and thanked the *Minneapolis Depot* for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. Sweet then highlighted DMNA's 2009 accomplishments:

Under Crime and Safety

- Continued participation in the Downtown Court Watch program whose mission is to hold chronic offenders accountable for their crimes with a proportionate response from the criminal justice system, and to reduce and prevent the commission of new crimes in the downtown community
(<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/CourtWatch.pdf>).

Under Downtown Development

- Strengthened collaborative relationships with the following groups:
 - Downtown Neighborhood Associations Leaders Group comprised of leaders from North Loop (www.northloop.org), Loring Park (www.loringpark.org), Elliot Park (www.elliottpark.org), and DMNA (www.thedmna.org)
 - East Downtown Council (www.edcmpls.org)
 - Minneapolis Downtown Council (www.downtownminneapolis.com)
 - Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation (www.mplsriverfrontcorp.org)
 - SafeZone (www.mplssafezone.org)
 - 2010 Partners
- Established the DMNA's presence on *Facebook*.

Under Land Use

- Reviewed numerous land use items, including variance requests, conditional use permits, site plan reviews and liquor license applications, and provided recommendations to City staff and elected officials. Examples include:

- Site plan review for the Walker Apartment Project at 10th and Hennepin Avenue, an affordable and market rate housing project
- Signage variances for the Gateway and Centre Village Parking Ramps; we also participated in developing six historic plaques that will be displayed on the Washington Avenue side of the Gateway Ramp
- Certificate of appropriateness for master sign plan for The Depot
- Consideration of preferred alignment for the Southwest Transitway LRT line (no recommendation was made by the DMNA)
- Site plan review for a supportive housing project at 822 South Third Street
- Handicap accessibility project at the Brill Building – Happy Days Market at 20 North 4th Street requiring approval from the Heritage Preservation Commission
- Certificate of appropriateness for signage and approval of materials for the exterior façade of the penthouse at 27 N. 4th Street / 401 1st Avenue North
- Multiple variance requests for a new skyway between the Flour Exchange Building and the U.S. Federal Courthouse
- Application to City’s Emergency Shelter Grant Program for Catholic Charities Exodus Residence
- Certificate of appropriateness for the window replacement project at the Textile Building, 119 North 4th Street.

Under NRP Implementation

- Completed the NRP Phase I Plan Review and had it approved by the NRP Policy Board in April
- Began working on the NRP Phase II Plan
- Continued to advocate for the extension of Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program beyond 2009
- Participated in the process for selecting representatives for the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission.

Lastly, Sweet noted that without the civic-minded efforts of the DMNA volunteer board, the support of its neighbors within the community and the NRP, none of these activities could have been achieved. Then she extended her personal thanks to past and present board members, downtown neighbors and the NRP.

II. 7th Ward Update

Council Member Lisa Goodman thanked the DMNA Board for inviting her to be a part of this year’s annual meeting, and recognized and thanked the other guest speakers in attendance: CPED Director Mike Christenson; Medica™ Skyway Senior Center Director Christina Kendrick; and First Precinct Inspector Kris Arneson. In addition, she asked the meeting attendees to introduce themselves so she could get a feel for who was at the meeting. Then Goodman highlighted the following initiatives and activities:

- The Minnesota Shubert Performing Arts and Education Center
- Downtown Improvement District (DID)
- Hennepin and First Avenues realignment

- Conversion of Marquette and Second Avenues
- 2010 City Budget - CCP/SAFE and Mounted Patrol
- Downtown foreclosures
- Parcel E Liner Parcel
- Parcel A Plan
- Senior housing project at 10th and Hennepin
- Upcoming Lunch with Lisa and Later with Lisa

III. Medica™ Skyway Senior Center Update

Christina Kendrick, Director of the Medica™ Skyway Senior Center, provided the group with an update on the work of the center and the impact it has had on the downtown community. She also highlighted the programs and activities the center has been able to implement as a result of the DMNA's NRP dollars. Kendrick noted that the 5-year sponsorship with Medica™ is up for renewal in 2010 and that she is negotiating with a number of potential new partners. Kendrick thanked the DMNA for its past support and expressed an interest in pursuing Phase II dollars.

IV. CPED Update

Sweet introduced CPED Executive Director Mike Christenson who began his presentation by expressing great appreciation for the efforts of Council Member Lisa Goodman. Christenson then provided an update on the work of the City's Community Planning and Economic Development Department over the past year. Highlights included:

- Target Field – new Twins ballpark opening in the spring of 2010
- Shubert Performing Arts and Education Center
- Target Center green roof
- Mill District City Apartments
- Unemployment rate
- Vacancy rates
- CPED lease in the Crown Roller Mill Building expires in 2017

Finally, Christenson thanked the DMNA Board for the work that it does in reviewing land use applications and providing recommendations to City staff and Council Member Goodman.

V. Elections to DMNA Board of Directors

Sweet introduced and thanked the current board and noted that Vice Chair Scott Parkin was not seeking re-election.

Thereafter, Sweet introduced the representatives from the Minneapolis League of Women Voters (LWV) who moderated the election process: Lynn Pepple and Ginny Morris.

There were four seats with 2-year terms, and three candidates to fill the four available seats: Andrea Christenson, Andy Hauer, and George Rosenquist.

In addition, the LWV also took nominations from the floors. There was one additional candidate nominated from the floor, Wally Swan.

After closing the nominations, the LWV gave candidates the opportunity to comment about themselves and share their interest in serving on the board.

A motion was made and seconded to elect all four candidates. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Crime and Safety Report

Sweet Introduced Minneapolis Police Department First Precinct Inspector Kris Arneson. Arneson gave the group an update on crime and safety activities in the downtown community. The Inspector noted that crime is down in the First Precinct and indicated that this was due in large part to the cops who work the downtown beat who care very much about the downtown community. Most have a lot of community policing experience, which helps a great deal. As a result, arrests are up 17 percent.

Arneson also discussed the future of the mounted patrol. She explained how effective the mounted patrol can be when dealing with the after bar crowd. One horse equals 10 cops. Arneson then highlighted a number of initiatives aimed at reducing nuisance crime, including a new effort to strengthen the effectiveness of the panhandling ordinance. Finally, Arneson introduced the new First Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Renee Allen. Both responded to questions regarding recent criminal activity in the Downtown neighborhoods.

VII. Adjournment

Sweet congratulated the re-elected and newly elected board members, and thanked everyone for coming to the annual meeting. She also encouraged people to attend board meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. She concluded by thanking staff member Christie Rock for coordinating the logistics for the event.

For more information about the DMNA, please contact its Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock by phone at 320-583-4573 or via email at christie@hutchtel.net or info@thedmna.org.

Being no further business, the annual meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Chair

Secretary